

Director of Housing Services Departs

On December 31, 2002, **Roy Johnson**, Director of Housing Services, ended his tenure with the City of Wichita to serve as Executive Director of the Spartanburg Housing Authority in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Spartanburg Housing Authority serves 1,396 Public Housing units and 1,200 Section 8 clients. Roy's new responsibilities will include the Section 8 and Public Housing Programs and a HOPE VI Project; as well as low-income housing tax credit projects that are managed by the Housing Authority.

In his three years with the City of Wichita, Roy has successfully worked with non-profits to develop new homeownership opportunities; assisted in the development of a mortgage lender pool; implemented numerous Section 8 and Public Housing program enhancements; and implemented various affordable housing rehabilitation and homeownership activities. He will be sorely missed but we wish him and his family the very best!

Mark Stanberry, Housing Specialist with the department, has been designated as the Interim Director of Housing Services.



Assistant to the Director Announced

Deborah Moore has joined us as the new Assistant to the Director of Housing Services. Deborah comes to us from the beautiful state of Illinois and has over 20 years experience in housing development, modernization, and low-income and public housing supportive service programs designed to assist low-to-moderate individuals and families with greater housing opportunities. These include single-family homeownership programs, multi-family subsidized rental housing, nursing homes, assisted living and elderly housing.

Deborah is extremely knowledgeable in federal subsidized housing programs and has authored over fifty (50) grant proposals and raised in excess of \$1.5 million dollars. Her past positions include the Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation, the Deputy Director of Modernization at the Chicago Housing Authority and Supervisory Realty Specialist at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development — Illinois.

As you can see, Deborah's background and experiences in affordable housing will benefit both employees AND clients of the City of Wichita Housing Services Department and we look forward to working alongside her. Please join us in welcoming Deborah Moore!

New Housing Services Employees

Please join us in welcoming our newest Housing Services employees.

Terry Jones and **Mark Bruso** have filled the open Maintenance Worker positions in Public Housing. They transferred to us on December 23rd from the Sewer Maintenance and Water Distribution Divisions. Both have experience in building and home maintenance and will be assets to our staff.

Maria Gonzales will be joining Public Housing division on January 7, 2003 as Receptionist. Maria has a strong background in administrative and office skills. **Joseph Candate**, joined our Public Housing division as a Maintenance Worker in August 2002. Joe transferred to the Section 8 division on November 9 as a Neighborhood Inspector I. Not only is Joe a welcome addition to the Section 8 family, but he is also fulfilling his career goal as well. Congratulations Joe!

HOMEownership Program

The number of first-time homebuyers that have been assisted by the Housing Services Department since July 1, 2002 already exceeds the number assisted during the entire previous program year. As of October 31st, thirty-one new homebuyers closed on homes in targeted areas of Wichita.

The increase in activity is credited to actions taken by the City Council over the past year that have included an increased target area for homeownership; increasing the amount of the assistance that can be utilized as down payment; and the approval of various projects by non-profits that have increased the stock of new or rehabilitated projects within the homeownership area.

All of these actions combined have had a great impact on increasing homeownership in older neighborhoods of Wichita. The demand for the down payment assistance was recently addressed by the City Council through the approval to allocate more HOME funds for the homeownership program.



Resident Board Members Attend NAHRO Conference

Several clients of the Housing Services Department were fortunate enough to be invited to and attend the Kansas National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) 2002 Fall Conference on November 12-15 in Salina, Kansas.

Individuals invited to attend were board members of either the Tenant Advisory Board or the Resident Associations at Greenway Manor, McLean Manor and Rosa Gragg Housing Developments. Topics covered included safety & security issues for residents, resident participant funds, resident communication with staff, boards and the community, and planning for the Spring Conference.

Contact your respective board members to find out more about the conference!



FINAL Housekeeping & Home Maintenance Class Approaches

This will be the last of our latest round of classes offered to Housing Services clients before the spring. Topics covered will include cleaning house on a tight budget, reducing clutter in the home, laundry tips, time management, record keeping, sharing the household responsibilities . . .and many more!

February 28, (Friday) 2:00 p.m.
Evergreen Neighborhood Center
2700 N. Woodland

To attend the FREE class, give our department a call at 268-4688. Please leave your name, address and phone number, and let us know the date of the class you're attending.

Home Maintenance Checklist *Especially for our* HOME 80 Homebuyers

This new feature will appear regularly to benefit new home buyers with scheduled maintenance of their home. New and old homebuyers alike will benefit from these handy tips.

January

- ☐ Clean furnace filter
- ☐ Check furnace fan belt
- ☐ Check water heater
- ☐ Check exhaust fans
- ☐ Clean humidifier
- ☐ Remove snow and ice from roof overhang/vents
- ☐ Test smoke alarms and CO detectors
- ☐ Locate squeaky stairs, floors, doors, and repair.
- ☐ Maintain plumbing fixtures and water appliances
i.e. garbage disposal, dishwasher, clothes washer, aerators, etc.
- ☐ Clean refrigerator coils, range hood vent, and clothes dryer vent
- ☐ Patch dings in wallboard and woodwork

New Feature!

February

- ☐ Clean furnace filter
- ☐ Clean range hood filter
- ☐ Inspect underside of roof for damage.
- ☐ Thoroughly clean refrigerator, freezer, and oven/range.
- ☐ Plan garden by studying seed catalogs.

ANNUAL LANDLORD MEETING

The Housing Services Department hosted its annual **Landlords Training Session** on Friday, November 22, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Nearly fifty existing and new landlords attended the conference!

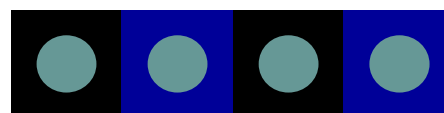
Topics addressed at the conference were:

- Fair Housing
Presenter: **Randy Phelps**, VP of the Housing & Family Services for the Urban League of Wichita
- Lead Based Paint
Presenter: **Rex Smith**, WIPE, Inc.

Other topics covered were:

- Housing Choice Voucher Contract
- Landlord/Tenant Lease Agreement
- Screening Prospective Tenants
- Reasonable Rents
- Request For Tenancy Approval

*If you are interested in obtaining information, brochures, or pamphlets that were provided at the conference, please contact **Michelle Turner** at 316/268-4683 with your name and address and she will mail these items to you.*



Spotlight On FSS

My name is **Roslyn Daniels** and I am a single mother of three children ages 14, 12, and 10. I am employed at Via Christi as a medical receptionist.

As a participant in the FSS program, I have set homeownership as my goal. I am really excited about the possibility of owning my own home. I have been working hard at getting my life together for my children and myself. The children are really excited about being in their "own" home. I really like the fact that when I'm ready to start the home buying process, I'll be set and ready to go and have some money for down payment and closing costs. I really like the fact that the Section 8 FSS program is willing to help with every aspect of the transition from tenancy to homeownership. I hope that those persons who are thinking about or are participating in the FSS program will take advantage of all the services the program has to offer.

*If you would like more information about the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program, and how you can one day achieve economic independence, please call **Vallery Fields** or **Diane Boyd** at 268-4688.*

McClean Manor Residents



Share their Love

With so many people falling on hard times this year, the McLean Manor Residents Association (MMRA) looked for a way to build moral of its members. Taking a lesson learned at the NAHRO Conference they attended (see opposite page) about empowering public housing residents to perceive their situation as hopeful, the executive board of the association approached members with an idea to share what little they have with those far less fortunate than themselves.

The idea was submitted by MMRA Treasurer, **Norma Counter**. Her idea was twofold. First, she suggested holding a one-day food drive on the first Saturday of December at the weekly Saturday morning "Chitchat" get-together. Secondly, she recommended that they contact the Salvation Army to sponsor a family for Christmas. The moneys brought in at the twice-weekly bingo games would pay for the gifts and dinner for the chosen family and the Association would pick up any other cost not covered. (Note: Residents pay \$.50 per Bingo card and the money is usually spent on useful prizes for the players).

The residents of McLean Manor gave Norma's ideas their overwhelming approval. So, on Saturday, December 7th, **Susan McCoy**, a WHO volunteer, took 250 lbs. of food donated by McLean Manor residents to the Kansas Food Bank! Then, with the help of **John Walker** at the Salvation Army, a MMRA sponsor family was selected. Residents bought gifts and donated food for the family's Christmas dinner all during the month of December. The high point came when boxes of food and gifts were delivered to the selected family on December 22. It was the best Christmas present the residents could have given, not only to a family in need, but to themselves.

Around The House

Wichita Housing Services Department

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Wichita, Kansas 67203

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Tenant Advisory Board Call for Nominees

Elections are coming up for new board members to replace old members rotating off the board. If you know of someone who would make a good candidate (including yourself) for the board, please contact Maryann Wynn *in writing* at 332 N Riverview, Wichita, KS 67203. Your nomination will be forwarded for consideration to the nominating committee which consists of current board members.

The TAB provides review and comment on the annual plan, recommends and implements resident services, and provides suggestions on program delivery. The TAB is comprised of Section 8 and Public Housing tenants. The group meets at a minimum four times a year.



Internet Users NOTE!

"Around the House" is now online! Find it at www.wichita.gov/housing; scroll down and click on the "Around the House" link.

If you prefer to receive "Around the House" via email, please email mwynn@wichita.gov and request to be added to the mailing list. (Adobe® Reader is required to view.)